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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(release on receipt)

Subject: "Food Inspectors Trek Northward" Information from Office of Marketing Services, War Food Administration

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You've probably heard about the "Women in White". They are the Processed Foods Inspectors for the War Food Administration. Right now many of them are pulling up stakes down in Florida and Texas.... and heading north.

"Women in White" work at essential war jobs. They sample and inspect every kind of processed food you can think of....from spices, peanut butter and frozen fish to dehydrated potatoes, canned pears and baking powder. A sample of every lot of processed food bought for our armed forces must pass the standards established by the United States Government. Before the war the services of processed foods inspectors were used almost entirely for food civilians bought. After the war they will inspect the food you buy, to an even greater extent, helping the packers and processors keep their high standards of quality.

During the winter many of the 200 women who inspect our processed foods have been working in the Southland, inspecting canned orange and grapefruit juice, grapefruit sections, other citrus products, and canned vegetables....packed in the Southland.

Already some of the inspectors from Texas have moved up into Arkansas where tons of spinach are canned and must pass Government inspection before it can be sold for military use. From there they work north, following the crops to be canned or frozen or dried. In May they may be in Illinois inspecting canned asparagus; and in July and August, they may be in Michigan and Wisconsin where cherries and peas are canned by the carload.

When the citrus season slows down in Florida the "Women in White" pack up for cooler climes. They may stop in Baltimore, Philadelphia or Rochester to inspect the many canned and frozen fruits and vegetables processed in those areas. These include cherries, all kinds of berries, apples, applesauce, spinach, asparagus, and tomato products. In July and August many of these inspectors will trek further northward to Maine where they will keep busy for several weeks, inspecting canned peas, green beans, corn and frozen fish....followed by canned blueberries and dehydrated potatoes. If you follow the "Women in White".... processed foods inspectors for the War Food Administration...you will follow the crops from north to south and back again.

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